

THE TIMES DAILY MAGAZINE PAGE

Indecision a Habit That Brings Waste of Time, Energy and Opportunity

Mental Tidiness Is as Much a Valuable Possession as Trimness of Person—Quick, Keen Decisions Valuable Accomplishment.

By LAURA CLAWSON.

"MORE than anything else about Anna, do I admire her ability to make quick decisions," said a mutual friend to me after a long committee session in which a number of the puzzle details of our favorite charity had been discussed. "At least, she has an opinion, be it right or wrong."

"And it is interesting to watch that same trait come out in her children," I answered, as we fastened our furs; "her little boy has exactly that same idea of things. He drifts in to see us occasionally, and he always knows just what he has come for, when he wants to take his leave—also the exact number of cookies he thinks it possible to devour without overstepping the bounds of politeness."

"How sensible," said my companion. "I do think many questions are debated while time and strength is being wasted. It is a relief to know people who have a brisk way of meeting life."

It's a Waste of Time.

It may not seem a waste of time to walk to the window several times to see the condition of the weather, or to sit for five minutes looking into space debating whether we shall have the Smiths for dinner on Wednesday at seven or seven thirty, but many minutes fly by in just that way, and it is a habit any number of us have.

The worst of it is that unconsciously, like so many others, we make the habit on to the children of the family.

Is there anything so exasperating in the world as to have to wait for a vacillating person to make up his mind? Certainly we should have patience when real questions are involved, but I for one am done with making engagements with persons who are apt to debate at the last moment the unimportant matter of train or boat, afternoon or evening.

"But what has that to do with Anna's

small boy?" queried my amused companion. "I thought we were discussing Anna's ability to make her child an attractive member of society."

"So we are," answered promptly, "and she is teaching him no more useful lesson than the importance of making up his mind quickly over trifles. The example she sets him has some unconsciousness with it, but she also tells me she watches him occasionally when he is starting out for school, if she sees him dawdling (and you know he's only a child), she asks him frankly what the trouble is. If it is a lost cap or a misplaced book she sympathizes; if it's merely indecision she sees to it that the question is speedily settled."

Certain Mental Tidiness.

There is a certain mental tidiness as well as trimness of person which is a valuable possession. Headlessness is a grave fault, but the headless are never debaters.

Talking over matters with our children takes a deal of patience, but it gives us an insight into the workings of their maturing minds which hours and hours of reading of "child-culture" can never give.

Children so quickly profit by example; indecision on the part of a parent or companion is noted and imitated quite unconsciously. In this busy world of men and women who are forging ahead have no time for the wavering. Let us teach our children that time is the most precious thing in the world, and that dawdling over details brings its own punishment, the inability to decide important things correctly.

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Memories of Brook Farm Days Recalled By Capital Resident

Major Saxton, Apprentice, Reviews Episodes of Socialistic Community Established by Now Famous and Departed Literary Workers.

CAN anyone imagine Nathaniel Hawthorne unromantically milking a cow? Or George William Curtis waiting on table? Or William Ellery Channing of the saintly face engaging in a brisk battle of pea-pods?

Just about seventy-two years ago it was possible to see these noted Americans engaged in just these pleasant pastimes, if one was willing to ride or walk the nine miles from Boston to West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and pay an unexpected visit to Brook Farm. Not that Mr. Hawthorne was studying dairy farming or the noted lecturer contemplated a domestic career, or the famous Unitarian divine was habitually belligerent with vegetables—it was all part of the life of an ideal community where they worked, played, and studied.

Today, there are just three people living who can give first-hand reminiscences of Brook Farm. One is a woman, living away across the continent in San Diego, Cal.; another is Frank B. Sanborn, of Concord, Mass., and the other is Major S. Willard Saxton, once of Greenfield, Mass., now of Washington.

Brook Farm is a vital community to him today, in his eighty-seventh year, as it was back in the forties, when he first met the group of people who are accorded a prominent place in American letters; his story of the daily routine of the place is as clear as if he were speaking of events ten years ago, instead of seventy-five.

How It Began.

"The forties were times of great social upheaval," said Major Saxton, "with anti-slavery agitation and other problems keeping the world of letters in a constant stir. In an at-

Can You Imagine—
Robert Ellery Channing in a pea-pod fight?
Nathaniel Hawthorne milking a cow?
Charles A. Dana as a printer's devil?
George William Curtis waiting on table?
Yet these were every-day occurrences at Brook Farm.

tempt to withdraw from all this turmoil, first one community, then another, was started. There was one in New Jersey, another at Skaneateles, New York.

"At length George Ripley and his wife purchased some land, rather near Boston and just outside of West Roxbury, there to found a place for the study of agriculture and other things of like nature, a school that should find its chief mission in mutual helpfulness. The system of groups worked out by Francois Fourier, who had originated a similar scheme in France, was used. There was a waiters' group, a haymaking group, a washing group, and so on.

"My father, Jonathan Saxton, had always been very much interested in social reform and he believed that the ideas at Brook Farm were soundly based. I had been serving as apprentice in a printing shop at my home in Greenfield, Mass., when my father wrote from Boston to Mr. Ripley asking that I be accepted as apprentice on the 'Harbinger,' the community publication.

"The contributors to the paper wrote from three centers—New York, Boston, and Brook Farm. On the editorial staff appear such names as James Russell Lowell, Margaret Fuller, John G. Whittier, Eliza Clapp, Charles A. Dana, George William Curtis, George Ripley, and William Ellery Channing.

Ready For Good Times.

"The people were always ready for good times. It was not unusual for

Hawthorne milked cows, Channing engaged in pea pod battle—Fire Wrecked Community, But Spirit Still Lives.

us to send to Dedham for a violinist, or, if some one happened to be at the piano, to clear away chairs and tables and join in a quadrille. Everything was over by 9:30 or 10, for the community retired early, and we always left the tables spread for breakfast when our merry making was over.

"I remember one particular occasion when Miss Ripley had issued a call for volunteers to shell peas for next day's dinner. About twenty or thirty responded, and the work was soon finished. Then, I don't know just who started it, some one threw a pod at some one else, only to receive a volley in return. Soon the air was full of pods, flying by hand-fuls. Right where the battle was thickest was William Ellery Channing of the saintly face, enjoying himself to the utmost.

"At last the founders had accumulated enough money to build a phalanstery, a community house like those advocated by Fourier. The building was practically completed. One evening the builders installed a stove to dry out the walls before finishing their work. It happened that just that evening we decided to have a sort of informal housewarming in one of the other buildings to celebrate. While we were busy dancing and enjoying ourselves, the cry suddenly rose, 'The phalanstery is on fire.'

"That was the beginning of the end. Back into the outside world we crept, still realizing the harmony of that beautiful life at Brook Farm. Most of us took up our lives where they had left off, but to all of us the spirit of the community was still living when Brook Farm was deserted."

Irregularities Cause Eye-Strain

By DR. LEONARD KEENE HIRSHBERG.

AND God said, "Let there be light, and there was light." After the first of things had been made, each additional step of creation necessarily led up to the birth of the eye. "And this is condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Light is a material series of extraordinary minute particles of everything, moving at the rate of 187,000 miles per second, so swift indeed that many stars now dead, cold, and smashed to smithereens, are still seen by us, because their light takes years and years to reach the human eye on this earth.

When light meets no great resistance, friction or repulsion, as in distant space, its particles wobble straight along in waves like the ripples in a wind-blown stream, but when it strikes objects denser than itself—which means most earthly things—its particles are repulsed, bent, checked, and turned aside.

The light as it passes from thin space to thicker air is turned earthward. As it goes straight through the dense air it strikes the dense eye lens and it is bent again. The lens is so shaped—like a spindle—that it bends the rays to a point outside the eye, rather than here it brings the light rays to a focus on the retina. The jelly-like fluids in

YOUR EYES

This is the second of a series of six articles, one of which will appear each day this week, of defects of the eyeball, astigmatism, and other eye faults, other maladies that come from the eyes, eye strain, and glasses and their value.

Tomorrow—"Astigmatism and Other Faults."

The eyeball help to locate the beam of light on the proper place. If the focus falls correctly upon the retina the eye needs no glasses, and is called emmetropic. If the eyeball is not perfectly round, the light rays do not focus on the retina, and the eye is called myopic, hypermetropic or far-sighted. Mildly-nearsighted and old people acquire this as age creeps upon them. If you think new people you meet "look like" others you know, if you mix colors in a good light, if you can see people that you know without recognition, it is possible that you have such an eye.

"Far-sighted" is not the correct name for "hypermetropic." What really occurs is eye strain with constant muscular effort by the iris strings, the lens, muscles, and other elastic structures. The eyes are unfairly sustained like a tuned-up fiddle at high tension. The upshot of this is a series of symptoms that may vary from a stiff neck to "that tired feeling." A duplicate of almost any of the ills of human flesh may be the price of this eye defect.

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A Garden As A Mental Tonic

IF WEARY, overwrought mothers but knew the joy to be derived from an indoor garden, how many souls in the stress of the day would be lightened, and how mightily it would help in getting ready for the spring sewing for the children and other of the petty household cares.

It is not necessary that one have a conservatory to achieve the benefit to be derived from the care of plants. A few potted plants may constitute an indoor garden.

It is just the little concern as to whether the green things are putting forth new shoots, or in getting ready to blossom, or whether they need water, or more sunshine that rests the tired brain that has battled all morning with a multiplicity of things. How Mary's summer dresses shall be made, and what kind of a suit to get for Bobby, and whether the new maid, who was engaged yesterday, will really come tomorrow are forgotten in the thought whether the plants need water or fresh air.

Nor are these all of the little interests that absorb the owner of an "indoor garden." Be as careful as one may, there is no close scrutiny to see that no tiny little insects infest the plants.

And spiders that pass unnoticed until the leaves of the plant are entirely covered must be guarded against, and drenching the foliage is one of the surest ways of eliminating and exterminating the pest.

To do this successfully, the best way is to place the plants in the bath tub, sink, or laundry tub, and shower them with water applied with a weak broom, or rubber bulb, or spray may be used, but a weak broom is always likely to be at hand. A bath spray may be brought into regulation, other things falling.

Francis Bacon Pianos, Cable-Nelson Pianos.

JEANETTE G. Street at 13th

Dr. Hirshberg Replies to Queries of Times Readers Upon Health Problems

M.—I have a very good complexion, but have been told to use — on the face at night to improve it if possible. Will you kindly tell me whether it is advisable to use same?

I do not discuss advertised remedies in this column; however, there is scarcely anything better than a good peroxide cream application for the face before retiring.

R. W.—What will you advise me to do for freckles? 2. My ears stand out terribly. I have heard of people tying them back. Would you advise this?

Sulphuric acid used in the form of a plaster mull is very good. Most so-called freckle remedies contain mercury, and may cause serious internal trouble if employed. In any case, no matter what is used, freckles usually return, and if the skin feels it is better to stop the use of all remedies, as more harm will be done than benefit. Use plain boracic acid powder twice a day on the ears.

2.—They may be strapped back with adhesive plasters at night.

X. Y. Z.—I am troubled with enlarged pores. What will you suggest? 2. What

will you suggest for blackheads? 2. Is soap advisable to use on the face? 4. Is it advisable to take — frequently to reduce the weight?

A.—Massage the following into the enlarged pores each night: Glycerine and kaoline, half and half. 2. Avoid all oily, hot, greasy, rich, starchy and highly seasoned foods, sweets, pastries, and thick gravies. Instead of soap or hot water, use glycerine, one ounce; sulphur— one dram, and rosewater, eight ounces. Dissolve the blackheads out with a teaspoonful each of glycerine and benzoin to a pint of rosewater. Take three drops of Fowler's arsenic solution in water after meals three times a day. 3. I do not advocate the use of soap for the face. 4. Dietetic remedies are not discussed in this column.

O. W.—I am troubled with a pain in the muscle between my shoulder and elbow. What will you suggest for this?

Take fifteen drops of a saturated solution of iodide of potash in water after meals three times a day, increasing one drop at a time until five are taken; this should be repeated several times. Take active exercise in the open air daily, learn to play tennis, baseball, football, and basketball, take Swedish movements, manipulations, and hot applications.

M. M. R.—I am troubled with pimples on one side of my face. Will you kindly advise accordingly?

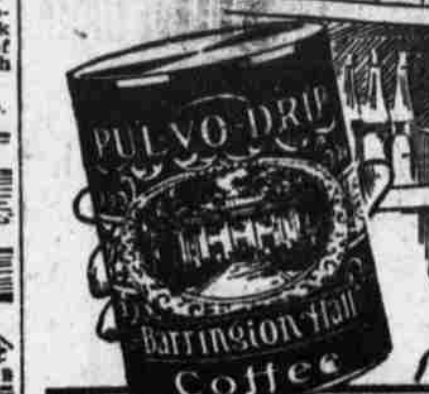
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Leather collars and cuffs still retain favor and are seen on a number of the tailored suits of this season's showing.

Silk petticoats have the ruffles and flounces edged with narrow bands of black velvet. Others are made of striped silk in wide and narrow stripes.

Bandings, with tiny rosebuds of chiffon or silk, suitable for bodice cases or evening gowns, as well as opalescent bead and enameled trimmings, ranges in price from 50 cents to \$1.50 a yard. The rosebud banding is often used to finish the dainty silk costume.

(Telephone Main 5260 for information regarding the names of the establishments in which the articles mentioned above may be purchased. Inquiries concerning news of the shops should be addressed to The Shopper, this office.)



FREE TRIAL 40c. CAN PUL-VO-DRIP

Barrington Hall Coffee

To every purchaser of a Pul-Vo-Drip Percolator at \$1.10

WE OFFER through your grocer an opportunity to try this splendid coffee free if you will purchase a Pul-Vo-Drip Percolator in which to make it, for then we know you will have it at its best.

This extraordinary offer is made to show you that science in coffee making now enables you to use the best at a saving over ordinary kinds.

"Other coffees lose their grip after you try Pul-Vo-Drip"

Pul-Vo-Drip Percolator

is made of vitrified china, (white-lined), the only material that will stand the heat and not contaminate the coffee.

The percolator makes from one up to seven cups of delicious coffee as clear as wine, containing but a fraction of a grain of coffee tannin, the element in coffee that is injurious to many people, while coffee made by steeping or ordinary percolation contains two to three grains per cup.

There is no contamination with the odor or metallic taste of the ordinary coffee pot, as porcelain has no chemical action on coffee. No woody taste to the coffee as there is no boiling. No waiting. The coffee is ready in its perfection as soon as the water has passed through it. No scouring necessary to keep it clean and sweet for it is washed as other china.

If your grocer cannot supply you, write to

Baker Importing Company New York.

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Troop News of Girl Scouts

MEMBERS of the local organization of Girl Scouts have given an informal vote of thanks to Mrs. William B. Bayles, chairman of the committee on arrangements for the supper-dance at Hayscher's last week. Mrs. Bayles was formerly captain of Troop 1, and it was through her work for the scouts that the recent entertainment was given for them.

The captains will meet at the residence of Mrs. Giles Scott Hafter, 2105 Sixteenth street, on Friday morning at 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Marie von Unschuld has consented to give tests to the scouts seeking proficiency awards in music.

Troop 1 had a lesson from Miss Elizabeth Gordon Fox, of the instructive Visiting Nurses on "Hatching a Patient" last Monday. The girls of the troop made a bed in hospital fashion, as learned at the last lesson, and Miss Fox bathed a patient without taking her from the bed. The next meeting will be held at the home of the Visiting Nurses, 2505 K street northwest, with a lesson on bandaging.

A group of girls from Troop 5, of Potomac, under their captain, Mrs.

S. A. Moores, gave a demonstration in first aid and semaphores for the Webster School Parent-Teacher Association, Wednesday evening. Mrs. Jones showed her proficiency badges and explained how she won them. Last Friday evening the troop united with the Boys' Progressive Club, of Potomac, in a patriotic celebration of Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays at the Methodist Episcopal Church. The girls demonstrated flag raising and the pledge of allegiance. Ruth Kautz, Kathryn McKittrick, and Rita Eastburn gave vocal and instrumental numbers. The program concluded with a medley of national airs arranged by the troop captain and the accompanist, Mrs. Gregor Wozel. A spotlight beam thrown on the flag as "The Star-Spangled Banner" was sung.

Troop 7, of which Mrs. Chester Pyles is captain, is growing rapidly. Two months ago the membership comprised seven scouts, and the present enrollment is twenty-seven. The latest of the new members are Madeline Columbus, Catherine Lantel, Mary Bixler, Margaret Wickham, Geannette Burgess, Vida Denney, Mildred von Elfr, Catherine Brown, Evelyn Hall, and Margaret Kubel.

The scouts of Troop 12 met Saturday at the home of their captain, Miss Ada Stinemetz. Two new members were admitted. After the singing of the national anthem the girls practiced sign language with semaphores. Since January 1 the following members have been admitted: Alice Ranch, Josephine Godbold, Mary McDermott, Rachel Pierce, Louise Chamberlin, Emilie Christian, and Sarah Myers.

The present officers are Edna Rose, patrol leader; Catherine Davis, corporal; Catherine Hawley, secretary and treasurer, and Violet Moque, scribe. Plans are under consideration for the increase in membership of the troop in preparation for the next rally, in June.

Menu For Today For Family of Four

Cost, \$2.25 (Approximately).

Breakfast.	Luncheon.	Dinner.
Corn flakes	Nut bread and butter	Baked fish with cream sauce
Coffee	Minced chicken on toast	Boiled potatoes
Toast	Tea	Beet salad
Bacon and eggs....60c	Baked apples.....40c	Baked custard....\$1.25

Advice To Girls

By ANNIE LAURIE.

Dear Annie Laurie—I have been going with a young man for two years, and he has told me that he loves me. Now, Annie Laurie, when he goes to dance and entertainments he takes other girls. Please tell me what you think of his actions, and if it would be right to mention it to him.

THE next time he tells you that he loves you, ask him why. If this is so, he pays so much attention to other girls, I do not see how he can really love you, wholeheartedly and pay so much attention to them.

Miss Laurie will welcome letters of inquiry on subjects of interest from readers of this paper, and will reply to them in these columns. They should be addressed to her, care of this office.

Cottolene

Old time corn bread, pies of all kinds, cakes, doughnuts, fritters—

Everything you shorten or fry is made more tempting when you use Cottolene. It is a cooking aid which allows the natural flavor of foods to be at its best.

Your grocer will supply Cottolene to you regularly. It is packed in pails of various sizes for your convenience.

THE K. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY

Cottolene makes good cooking better

BEHNING PIANOS

—are acknowledged by musical experts to have a tone of unrivaled power and richness. The standard of comparison for 50 years.

We are Exclusive Representatives in this locality for the Behning Piano—also

Francis Bacon Pianos, Cable-Nelson Pianos.

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